

**WEST MADISON UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the West Madison Utility District was duly convened, held and conducted on February 11, 2025, in the Kearney Park Community Center at 443 Livingston Vernon Road, Flora MS, as follows to wit:

The President of the Board, B. W. "Sammy" Brown, presided and called the meeting to order. The following members were present:

Commissioner B. W. "Sammy" Brown	Commissioner Joyce Monroe
Commissioner Scott Rye	Commissioner Carolyn Andrews
Commissioner Ernest Odom	

The Board President announced that the members of the Board present constituted a quorum and declared the meeting duly convened. Commissioner Brown asked that Lawrence Morris, in attendance in the audience, open the meeting with a prayer.

RE: Approval of the February 11, 2025 Agenda

Commissioner Brown motioned and Commissioner Rye seconded to approve the Agenda for the West Madison Utility District. The vote on the matter being as follows: All Commissioners voted "aye" and the matter carried unanimously. The Agenda for the February 11, 2025 meeting is hereby approved

RE: Approval of Agenda Consent Items:

Commissioner Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items number 4 through 15 on the agenda. Commissioner Andrews stated she had not had time to review everything and needed some time to look over the items and stated that she had questions about items number 4 and 11. Commissioner Andrews asked about the Special Meeting Minutes and whether appropriate notice had been given and voiced some other issues that were not specific questions as to the Minutes. Commissioner Brown stated that everything had been done in accordance with all requirements and Mr. Herring attended that meeting.

Commissioner Andrews asked what was item 11 and Commissioner Brown explained that WMUD had to execute a contractual engagement letter with the CPA every year.

As there were no more questions, Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Odom with all commissioners voting "aye". The consent agenda items for the February 11, 2025 meeting are hereby approved.

Consent Items are listed as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of EOM RVS Report for October, November and December, 2024 (as amended) and January, 2025.
5. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of EOM Financials for October, November and December, 2024.
6. Acceptance and Approval of the January 16, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes
7. Annual Review of Emergency Response Plan for Water Systems

8. Annual Review of Security Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide for Water Systems
 9. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Order from Public Service Commission expanding WMUD's certificated water service area
 10. Removal of Cordell Spires as designated Alternate MCWA Member
 11. Approval and Consent to Execute new Engagement Letter with Horne for WMUD's financial reports
 12. Approval and Authorization for Board President and/or Treasurer to pay the following payments
Out of the operation account each month so that default will not occur: monthly Entergy bills; monthly Atmos bill; monthly CPA bill; monthly Operator bill; monthly MCWA bill; monthly loan payment to USDA (\$921.00); monthly loan payment on SRL (\$1,561.81); payment of \$1,800.00 from the operating account into the Short Lived Assets Reserve Account; monthly payment(s) to NexBill for processing online water/sewer customer payments
 13. Approval and authorization for Board President and/or Treasurer to make a payment out of the operation account to the Flora Post Office as needed for postage as needed in order to mail billing statements
 14. Declare the following as surplus as it no longer works and have it removed and destroyed:
Lexmark Laser MVP Printer MX310dn 7015-270 FCC: 1YLEXMO1005; and former desktop Computer, Dell Optiplex 780 JRSYZN1 with accoutrements; Dell Inspiron 15 500 Series laptop, Service Tag (S/N): FWRYC72; Express Service Code 34633604414
 15. 2024 EOY USDA Report and 2025 Anticipated Budget
- ***END OF CONSENT AGENDA***

RE: Customer's Concerns and Issues

1. Howard and Stephanie Lewis, 3010 Madison Street
2. Lawrence Morris, 3014 Madison Street; and
3. Lawrence stated he was also appearing on behalf of Mary Mitchell from 3008 Madison Street

Commissioner Brown asked for the customers present to present their issues to the Board. Lawrence Morris stated that he was speaking for Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Mary Mitchell and himself regarding holes in the back yards where sewer appeared to be leaking out. The main hole is located between Mary Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis' homes. Commissioner Brown asked K. T. about whether this could be from a main sewer line or individual service lines. K. T. stated that in Magnolia Heights Subdivision, the main sewer lines run east and west while the laterals off of the main lines run north and south connecting the houses. Commissioner Brown directed K. T. and Lawrence to meet and view the situation to determine what is going on and how it can be remedied. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis asked the Board if they could tell them what type of repair would be required and Commissioner Brown stated that until K. T. and Lawrence met and reviewed the problem, the Board could not tell them exactly what type of repair would need to be made.

Lawrence Morris stated that he had a second matter to bring to the attention of the Board and that is that the County needs to replace the culvert to the drive that goes into where the main well is located off of Livingston Vernon Road near Virilia as during heavy rains, water is flooding the area and running into the road. When the county begins this work, they will need someone on site representing WMUD to make sure they do not hit any water lines as well as in case one is damaged and needs repair. Commissioner Brown stated for Lawrence to just contact him when they were ready to begin work and he would make sure someone was on site.

There being no more customer issues, the Board moved to the next agenda item which was Engineer's Report. The Engineer was not present to give a report, so the Board moved to the following item, the Operator's Report.

RE: Operator's Report (K. T. Newman)

(See report.)

No compliance issues to report and all water samples passed all standards set by the Dept. of Health for January, 2025.

The bypass pump is still not running even after Hydra replaced the injector pump. K. T. informed the board that due to all the rain that is due to fall in the next couple of days, and the bypass pump not working, the sewer flow will be very slow. Commissioner Brown mentioned that Hydra had been out twice and submitted two bills to WMUD, but the bypass pump was still not working so he was not sending payment on those two invoices at this time. He asked K. T. if he thought they should contact John Deere to check the bypass pump as Hydra apparently has not figured out what is wrong.

K. T. distributed a new quote from Hydra to repair the bypass pump. Commissioner Rye, who is an authorized sewer operator, stated that it appeared that Hydra was including everything in the quote that they "thought" might be the problem. Commissioner Rye stated that he did not think it was the solenoid (included in the quote) or the board. He stated that it may possibly be the Mag Pickup (in quote). Commissioner Rye offered to check the bypass pump in the morning because WMUD needs it running if at all possible. K. T. stated that he would have someone from his company or himself, meet with Commissioner Rye at the site to look at the bypass pump.

K. T. then stated that there was a customer at the end of Magnolia Street that had a broken sewer line (they had run over it with their car) and the sewer is running onto Aaron King's property. K. T. stated that it was not WMUD's line, but appeared to be a private line. Commissioner Brown instructed K. T. to verify that it was a private line and to check and see what needed to be done. If it is a private line, the customer could hire someone to fix it, even if it is K. T.'s company, as WMUD cannot repair a private line. If the customer refuses to fix their private line, then K. T., as Operator, should contact the Department of Health and/or the Department of Environmental Quality to report the issue.

K. T. informed the Board that now everyone is on the "same page" after the second team meeting held Jan. 29th and the original scope of the project is still the same. The project is scheduled to be bid by the end of March.

There was a water leak repair performed at 126 Cedar in the Woodlands and the main Water Line ran under the customer's concrete driveway. The concrete had to be broken and it was repaired as best as possible but customer still has some complaints regarding grass, etc. K. T. stated that after the weather dried out he could go back and do a bit more smoothing, etc. on the area but wanted the Board to be aware of the situation.

A jetter usage report was submitted to the Board. No work orders or purchase orders were submitted to the Board.

Commissioner Andrews asked K. T. about the Franklin property located next door to the WMUD office as Mrs. Franklin had asked for some dirt to be placed around the manhole located in their yard that was showing signs of erosion. K. T. informed her that they had gone to deliver the dirt and place it around the area, but Mrs. Franklin was not there and Mr. Franklin was. Mr. Franklin began discussing the fact that WMUD should install culvert pipes, etc., so K. T. stated they did not put out the dirt. The dirt is still there, it was just not put in place due to Mr. Franklin's insistence on other work being done by WMUD. K. T. stated that he did not want to get into "landscaping." Commissioner Brown and K. T. agreed to go look at the area on a dry day to talk about the situation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No items to be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Katina Palmer had a request as a Board member of the Flora Fire Department. Commissioner Brown stated that as Ms. Palmer was not present, that item would be tabled for a future time.

Commissioner Brown stated that the insurance check in the amount of \$8,700, more or less, had arrived for the roof on the Community Center/WMUD office building.

Commissioner Andrews stated that she felt Letitia Reeves being present constituted a "conflict of interest" as she worked for Mr. Herring, WMUD's attorney. Ms. Reeves informed her that there was no conflict as she was attending on a voluntary basis, after being asked, to help WMUD by taking minutes, getting the required reports together, bringing its records up to date, and making sure WMUD does everything it needs to do by deadlines, etc. Commissioner Andrews objected to Ms. Reeves sitting at the end of the Board table as she is not a Board member to which Ms. Reeves responded that she had to sit close in order to hear everything and take minutes. Commissioner Andrews also stated that she felt Ms. Reeves should not say anything at all during the meeting and Ms. Reeves stated that in order to keep the Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, if anyone detoured from the items being discussed, she, as Parliamentarian/Sergeant at Arms, could call an "out of order" and ask that they attend to the agenda items being discussed if the President or another Board member did not. Commissioner Andrews stated that she would contact the Ethics Commission and Mr. Herring; Ms. Reeves told her to please do so. Commissioner Brown informed Commissioner Andrews that everyone was here on a voluntary basis and needed to work together for the good of WMUD and that Ms. Reeves had been asked by the three newly appointed WMUD officers to assist in this regard. Commissioner Andrews also stated that she felt that there may be a conflict of interest with Board Commissioner Scott Rye as he worked for Cummings and WMUD did business with Cummings. Commissioner Rye stated that the Cummings entity that WMUD did business with was not the Cummings that he worked for and there was not a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Monroe stated that she would like to congratulate the three Board members on their new roles as officers but she was disappointed by the way it was done. She further stated that she wanted to work with everyone as best as possible. Commissioner Brown informed everyone that Commissioner Odom is a licensed water operator and Commissioner Rye is a licensed sewer operator and he felt that they had a lot to offer the WMUD Board by their knowledge and experience.

Commissioner Brown stated that after last discussions regarding the water/sewer rate increase, everyone felt that it needed to be done in increments. Commissioner Brown said that it needs to be established and then definitely put on the website. Commissioner Andrews stated that all of the churches definitely needed to be notified as the word can be passed to customers

that way. Commissioner Brown stated that he would speak with K. T. regarding the best way to get the information out to everyone. Commissioner Rye stated that a "stairstep" rate increase once a year would be a good way to proceed. Commissioner Monroe stated that it was good to know that the CDBG project would be ongoing soon so that the customers could see progress and know that improvements were being made.

Commissioner Brown also mentioned that he needed to speak with K. T. regarding the cost of electric meters. If WMUD installed electric meters, someone can simply pull a particular meter up on a computer to see if there is a leak without having to go out to the site and stand there trying to watch for the meter reading numbers to move. Also, you receive readings automatically from every meter so none will be missed and it will eliminate errors.

There being no other business to discuss, Commissioner Monroe made a motion to dismiss the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Andrews. All commissioners voted "aye," and the meeting was dismissed.

Minutes Prepared by: Letitia Reeves

Approved By: 
B. W. "Sammy" Brown, President

Date: 3-11-25